

Draft for discussion purposes only

**Proposed Changes to:
Amended Ordinance 2007-14
Adopted June 4, 2007**

Add the following definitions:

Article 1. Definitions

10.01.010

Animal Abandonment:

An act in which a person who knowingly, intentionally or recklessly leaves an animal unattended, without proper food, water, or shelter, for twenty-four hours or more.

Animal Foster Care Provider:

A person approved and documented by the agency that has the sheltering contract with the City of Lafayette, or any other rescue organization that has been approved by said agency to register Foster Care Providers. Said Foster Care Provider approved and documented by the agency or an approved rescue organization shall on a temporary basis be allowed up to 6 cats or 6 dogs or any combination thereof at one time. Said provider will be required to demonstrate compliance with the Animal Foster Care requirements as established by the Lafayette Animal Control Commission.

At Large

An animal that is:

- a) Not confined in a pen, corral, yard, cage, house, vehicle or other secure enclosure; or
- b) Not on a leash and is off the property of its owner, its owner's agent, or its keeper; or
- c) On a leash that does not adequately confine the animal to the property of its owner, its owner's agent, or its keeper; or
- d) On a leash that is not otherwise under the immediate control of a person physically capable of restraining the animal.

Colony

A group of one or more free-roaming cats, whether managed or unmanaged.

Colony caretaker

A person who provides food, water, and shelter for free-roaming cats in a managed colony.

Free-roaming cat

Any homeless, stray, wild, or untamed cat.

Managed colony

A colony of free-roaming cats that is registered with the animal control commission or its designee and is maintained by a colony caretaker using trap, neuter, and return methodology.

Sec. 10.01.022.

LIMIT ON OWNERSHIP OF DOGS AND CATS

It is unlawful to keep or harbor more than three dogs and three cats beyond the age of **5 months** in any dwelling unit, structure or property. A person who violates this section shall be punishable as provided in section 10.01.100 of this Code.

(Old ordinance has age of weaning – may be subject to disputes and disagreement and not as precise as “5 months”)

Grandfather Exception:

An exception shall be made to the limit on dogs and cats described herein, if at the time the Ordinance was adopted on June 4, 2007, the pet owner can give satisfactory evidence to the Lafayette Animal Control Officer that the limitation was exceeded at the time the Ordinance was adopted, and the Animal Control Officer confirms that the person is a responsible pet owner that can and has provided adequate food, water, shelter and care for said animals. However, in any event, the pet owner is not permitted more than 6 cats or 6 dogs or any combination thereof not to exceed 6. In addition said pet owner shall not replace any animal or obtain a replacement pet until the owner can do so in compliance with the limitation of ownership established by Section 10.01.022.

Multi-Pet License:

A person owning, keeping, harboring, or having custody of any dog or cat that would exceed the limitation provided in this ordinance may seek to obtain a multi-pet license to allow that person to keep or harbor a total of 6 cats or 6 dogs or any combination thereof not to exceed 6. To obtain a multi-pet license, in addition to all the pet registration requirements provided in Article 4, Licensing and Registration of Dogs and Cats, the person must allow for a home inspection by an Animal Control Officer to determine that said person is a responsible pet owner that can provide adequate care, shelter, and control of said animals and otherwise comply fully with the provisions of the Animal Control Ordinance herein.

Multi-Pet License Fee:

An annual fee of \$100.00 shall be charged for a multi-pet license in order to pay for the cost of providing for a home visit by an Animal Control Officer to confirm that the person seeking to obtain a multi-pet license is a responsible pet owner that can provide adequate food, water, shelter, care and control of multiple pets.

Section 10.01.034

Feral Cats-Trap, Neuter, Return

- a). Unauthorized Caretaking Prohibited
 - 1. It shall be unlawful to provide food, water, or shelter to a colony of free-roaming cats that is not registered with the Lafayette Animal Control Commission or its designee, without implementing the trap, neuter, return method as set forth under the standard guidelines by the Animal Control Commission or its designee.
- b). Managed Colony
 - 1. Each feral cat colony will be registered by the Caretaker with the Animal Control Commission for the City of Lafayette, which shall maintain a list of current caretakers and registered feral cat colonies.
- c). Colony Caretaker Responsibilities
 - 1. Colony caretakers shall abide by standard guidelines devised by the Animal Control Commission or its designee regarding the provision of food, water, shelter, and veterinary care for cats within the managed colony.
- d) The Lafayette Animal Control Commission or its designee, in order to encourage the stabilization and reduction of the free-roaming cat population in the City, may:
 - 1. Trap any free-roaming cat in a humane manner;
 - 2. Have the cat surgically sterilized, ear-tipped, and vaccinated against rabies by a licensed veterinarian;
 - 3. Release the cat to the Almost Home Humane Society for adoption or other disposition in accordance with the law, or to a colony caretaker who will maintain the cat as part of a managed colony of free-roaming cats.